

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown.

1. (Amended) A device, comprising:

a scheduler in an access point to provide a schedule of variable length packets based on transmission times to send on spatial channels to mobile stations by filling M spatial channels for traffic on M stations at a time instant.

where M is a constant less than or equal to a number of antennas at the access point.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 further including adaptive antenna arrays used in conjunction with a beam forming algorithm to achieve spatial diversity and implement Spatial-Division Multiple-Access (SDMA), wherein the adaptive antenna array changes beam weights based on the schedule.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the scheduler in the downlink provides the schedule of transmission intervals for different mobile stations.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the schedule accounts for traffic information to the mobile stations based on packet size.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the schedule accounts for traffic information to the mobile stations based on queue size.
6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the schedule accounts for traffic information to the mobile stations based on priority.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the access point sends multiple schedules in a protected time interval to the mobile stations.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7 wherein a first schedule of the multiple schedules is sent to a first mobile station and a second schedule is sent to a second mobile station.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the access point fills spatial channels using the data packets buffered for all the mobile stations.

10-25. (Canceled)

26. (Amended) A method for a Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol, comprising:
scheduling variable length packets in an access point based on transmission times to send on spatial channels to mobile stations by filling M spatial channels for traffic on M stations at a time instant,

where M is a constant less than or equal to a number of antennas at the access point

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including: retrieving antenna resources in the access point to form spatial channels developed on the fly for a waiting mobile station.

28-29. (Canceled)